Department of the Navy is seeking eBusiness pilot project ideas
NAVSUP News
17 September 01

Thirty to 40 eBusiness pilot projects proposed by Navy and Marine Corps commands and activities will be funded by the Department of the Navy (DON) eBusiness Operations Office during fiscal year 2002.

In fiscal year 2001, the DON eBusiness Operations Office selected and funded eight such pilot projects from more than 360 submissions.

Karen L. Gadbois, Director of the eBusiness Operations Office's Pilot Funding and Project Management Group said, "This is a tremendous opportunity for the Department of the Navy to develop business solutions through the use of technology, and we strongly encourage Navy and Marine Corps activities to continue submitting proposals."

Pilot project proposals should be designed to develop and implement innovative eBusiness solutions to improve readiness, business processes and quality of work or life. The goal for pilot initiatives is to quickly demonstrate a proof of concept, generally within 90 to 120 days, at a cost of $1 million or less.

Pilot nominations may be submitted to the DON eBusiness Operations Office web site, www.don-ebusiness.navsup.navy.mil. Navy and Marine Corps commands and activities are encouraged to continue to submit their pilot ideas at anytime for future funding consideration.

Each pilot project submission is evaluated against a common set of rigorous evaluation criteria. The projects that successfully pass the initial screening are analyzed for breadth of impact, prototyping cost, time to complete the pilot, and the impact to DON and eBusiness strategies. A commercial-off-the-shelf decision support software tool is used to conduct an analytical evaluation of each project submission, arriving at a final overall grade.

The DON eBusiness Operations Office provides the funding to conduct pilot projects, and consulting services to clients to fully develop concepts into workable, demonstrable pilot projects. The Office will also serve as a knowledge warehouse, tracking all of the pilot project successes and failures to provide web-based access for lessons learned throughout the Department.

Gadbois said she plans to announce the first batch of pilot projects selected in early October.

The eight pilots funded in fiscal year 2001 included Pay and Personnel Ashore; RF Storeroom; Maps and Charts Tracking System; Deployment Logistics Program; Smart Web Move; Web-Based Automated Confidential Financial Disclosure Process; Global Amphibious Total On-line Resource Link; and Medical Appointments on the Web. The underlying technology concepts to be proven and/or demonstrated include transactions processing between afloat and ashore, radio frequency technology, electronic signatures and associated security, providing medical appointment access via the Internet.

The DON e-Business Operations Office, located at the Naval Supply Systems Command Headquarters in Mechanicsburg, Pa., is a catalyst and enabler for implementing e-Business solutions. The office has two primary objectives: to be an e-Business innovation center, providing consultative services and idea sharing of the emerging uses of commercial e-Business solutions relevant to the Navy and Marine Corps; and to serve as a focal point for management of card and selected electronic transaction systems.